

REMARKS

Claim 3 is the sole claim presented for consideration.

An editorial change has been made to claim 3 to overcome the objection set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. In addition, a minor change has been made to the specification in response to the objection to the disclosure set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Okamoto (JP '830). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to an information recording/reproducing device for at least one of recording information on and reproducing information from a disc-like recording medium housed in a disc cartridge. The disc cartridge includes a case main body having a housing part for housing the recording medium, an aperture that allows a light beam to enter from an optical pickup that is provided to at least one principal plane of the case main body, a thin bridge part provided to the aperture, which is thinner than a cartridge case, and a shutter for opening and closing the aperture. The thin bridge part is disposed at a position farther from the optical pickup than a surface of the recording medium, which is on a side to be irradiated when the light beam in a state in which the disc cartridge is mounted to an information recording/reproducing device. The device includes a turntable for rotating the recording medium, an optical pickup that emits a light beam to the recording medium so as to at least one of record and reproduce the information, and which moves to/retracts from the aperture of the disc cartridge, a mechanism for moving the optical pickup in an in-plane direction of the recording medium, and an objective lens. As claimed, in at least one of a case where the

recording medium is to be mounted to the turntable together with the disc cartridge, and a case where the recording medium is to be removed from the turntable together with the disc cartridge, the objective lens is retracted into a position opposite to the thin bridge of the disc cartridge.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance information recording/reproducing device having a relatively small size can be provided.

The Okamoto citation relates to an optical head and disc driving device that includes a disc-like recording medium housed in a disc cartridge 17. As shown in FIG. 4, the disc cartridge includes a main body 35, and a shutter 36. The cartridge 17 is received in a device main body 10, having an optical head 15 therein.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Okamoto does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing an objective lens that retracts into a position opposite to a thin bridge part of the disc cartridge. In this regard, the Office Action asserts that Okamoto includes an aperture 40 that allows a light beam to enter from an optical pickup, and an objective lens that is retracted into a position opposite to a thin bridge part of the disc cartridge 17. It is respectfully submitted, however, that element 40 in Okamoto relates to a metal hub (not an aperture), and an aperture is denoted by element 33 (FIG. 5). While Okamoto does disclose a retracting lens, with its disclosed arrangement, it is respectfully submitted that the objective lens retracts proximate to the aperture 33 (*see* FIGS. 7B and 7C) and not the thin bridge part as set forth in Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Okamoto fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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